



CONFIDENTIAL

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ELKHART, INDIANA 46516 • MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 229 SO. SECOND STREET • (219) 294-5471

ENGINEERING

Gary A. Gilot, P.E. City Engineer
Max C. Garl, R.L.S. 1st Assistant
James M. Boyles, E.I.T. 2nd Assistant
Mary Reecer, Executive Secretary

JAMES P. PERRON, Mayor

May 15, 1985

MEMO TO: Groundwater Contamination File

FROM: Gary A. Gilot *YAG*

SUBJECT: Voluntary Information from City of Elkhart Resident
on Past Practices of Taylor Products and Dobbins
(Walter Piano)

Mr. Glant at 825-5002 called to bring forward information that his wife had worked at the above referenced firms along Beardsley Avenue in Elkhart, Indiana. He indicated that his wife had worked there approximately 20 years ago. He indicated that on numerous occasions that his wife had complained about the handling of cleaning solvents at these facilities. She pointed out the practice was to put the material into 55 gallon drums which were then set out in the alleyway to corrode and leak, with the contents seeping into the ground.

Mr. Glant indicated that his recollection of first hand observation on a tour of the situation, taken in their personal vehicle, was that the leaking drums were on the west side of Taylor Products.

I inquired as to whether there were any associates of Mr. Glant's wife, who had worked at these facilities during the same timeperiod who would possibly still be working there, or still be available to give depositions based on firsthand knowledge. He indicated that there would be several that met that criteria. The only name that came to mind immediately was Elnora Defries. He indicated that she is still working there although she has moved to a clerical position. Mr. Glant recommended that we talk to some of the older individuals in the maintenance department.

Mr. Glant also pointed out that he was well aware of abandoned oil wells on the near Michigan side of the border where industrial cleaning solvents were commercially injected into abandoned wells. I did not probe this subject, but it may be of interest to EPA.

cc: Rick Brown, County Health Dept.
Mike Strimbu, U.S. EPA Superfund
Marty Risch, State Groundwater Div.

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